



# the Communicator

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OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

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By Subscription

## First Honors Convocation Held



The first annual BCC Honors Convocation was held on Thursday, October 21, in the Auditorium. On stage, in ceremonial robes, were President Morris Meister, Reverend William J. Kalaidjian, Mr. Benjamin McLaurin, Chairman of the BCC committee in the Board of Higher Education, Miss Dorothy Weddige, Director of Nursing Education and Nursing Service, NYC Dept. of Hospitals, the Deans, the Heads of Departments, and Student Council President, Joe Mazza.

The ceremony began promptly at 1:00 PM as the honored guests entered the Auditorium in a procession. The Reverend Kalaidjian delivered the Invocation. Dean Thompson welcomed those present, and Joe Mazza delivered a few words of greetings.

Dean Abraham Tauber then took the floor and conveyed a few words of honor for the Dean's list students. Dean Tauber then introduced President Meister and announced that he would receive the Gold Medal of the City of New York, the highest honor the City can confer to an individual.

Dean Sidney Silverman introduced Miss Weddige, who presented Dr. Meister with a scroll from the Dept. of Nursing. Mr. McLaurin, substituting for Bronx Borough President Periconi, read the Proclamation from the Borough President's office. The proclamation is printed elsewhere on this page.

The last speaker of the afternoon was President Meister, who delivered an address entitled, "Where Are You Taking My World." Some excerpts of the speech are printed below . . .

## Meister's Speech

### Where Are You Taking My World?

Fairly late at night, a husband and wife were discussing a trip they were going to take very shortly, involving much travel, and as they discussed this they decided it would be much easier if they had a globe to look at and trace their route. Their young daughter, Helen, had a globe she used to play with. Quietly, he tiptoed into Helen's room, where she was fast asleep, and took the globe. He reached the door when Helen suddenly woke up and said, "Daddy, where are you taking my world."

I repeat the word you, the word my and the word world. They hold a very special significance. The world belongs to neither the young nor the old, but both, and they both must decide in which direction the world is to go. Much conflict and unhappiness in the world today reflects that the young do not realize that the world belongs to both. Youth cannot take the world where they want to go, unless and until they understand where the world has been up to now, where it is now, and why. Young people have no right to appropriate the world for themselves. They should understand how the world came to

be and why. On the other hand, old people cannot appropriate the world for themselves either. They cannot keep things in the same crystalized way they used to be or tend to block innovations, change and revolutionary thinking. Both have no right to say they want the world, to take it where they want to go.

Serendipity is the end that takes place in the ultimate future by those who started out and took a step in a direction not knowing where it would lead to. This is similar to Columbus not knowing where his voyage would lead to. Many other innovators in history were the victims of serendipity. Copernicus and Newton in discovering the solar system and its mechanics did not realize what it would lead to. Galileo and Einstein in their work on physics and energy had not notion that one day the salt water of the ocean could be made fresh by the uses of atomic energy. Pasteur, too, never realized the effect of his work on living cells. Morgan's discovery on the genetics process due to his work on the fruit flies never knew the result this would have in the agriculture world. Jefferson, who supported free education systems in this country had no idea that in 1965 students of Bronx Community

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## Seventy Years Devoted To Education

Morris Meister, the president of our institution, was born seventy years ago in Goniety, Poland. He came here at the age of seven and was raised on New York's Lower East Side. He was admitted to City College where he was graduated with a B.S. in 1916. Within a year he received his Masters' from Columbia University. Four years later he received his Doctorate from the same institution. In between, he was a World War I Physics instructor.

During the years from 1916 through 1921, he was a science teacher at Stuyvesant High School, Speyer School, Horace Mann School, and Haaren High School. He also served as a lecturer in Science Education at City College, New York University, Columbia University, and the University of Wisconsin, from 1917-1941. Simultaneously, he was the head of the Science Department at the New York Teacher's Training College. From 1935 through 1938 he held the position of Supervisor of Science for the New York City Public Schools.

In 1938 he was named the first principal of the Bronx High School of Science. He held this post for twenty years. Among the notable developments at this school under Dr. Meister's leadership were the development of the Advance Placement Program of college-level courses offered to honor students in secondary schools and enriched courses of study. The alumni of the Bronx High School of Science have made notable achievements in many fields of American life. Ironically, although he designed the new Bronx High School of Science, he stayed at the old building.

On February 1st, 1958, Dr. Meister was selected from a field of thirty candidates for the post of President of Bronx Community College, which would hold its classes in the building once occupied by the High School of Science.

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## Birthday Luncheon Given For Meister

BCC President Morris Meister was honored for over 50 years of dedicated service to the education of the youth of N.Y.C. at a luncheon on October 20, 1965, the date of his seventieth birthday, at the Nursing Center. Over seventy people were invited to the luncheon.

Joseph F. Periconi, President of the Borough of The Bronx proclaimed the day as "Education for Excellence Day." The proclamation is printed elsewhere on this page.

At the same time, the Department of Hospitals of the City of New York, through its Commissioner, honored Dr. Meister for his farsighted approach to the field of Nursing Education. The scroll presented to Dr. Meister read:

"The City of New York Department of Hospitals present this award to Dr. Morris Meister, President, Bronx Community College—City University of New York—Educator and Humanitarian, on the occasion of his 70th Birthday, in recognition of his efforts as a

pioneer in the field of Nurse Education in New York community Colleges in cooperation with the Department of Hospitals."

The Nursing Program at the Bronx Community College was instituted in 1959 with the award of a five-year Kellogg Foundation grant setting up the college as a demonstration center for nurse training in the State of New York. In September, 1960, forty-four young women and men were admitted to the program. The first class of nursing students was graduated in 1962. In September, 1965, the second year of the new "Nursing Center" opened with a nursing enrollment of 378 students, about 300 of whom live in the fine, new residence which the facilities provide.

It was also announced at the luncheon, that Dr. Meister will receive the Gold Medal of the City of New York from Mayor Wagner.

Student Council President Joe Mazza expressed the feeling of the Student Body when he said, "There are 7,000 students at BCC, and there are 7,000 reasons for wanting to shake your hand."

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## PROCLAMATION

Office of the President, Borough of The Bronx.

WHEREAS Dr. Morris Meister, President of the Bronx Community College of the City University of New York, reaches his 70th birthday on October 20th, 1965, with over 50 years of dedicated service to the education of the youth of our city; and

WHEREAS Dr. Meister has inspired thousands of young people, and teachers to strive for excellence in education; and

WHEREAS Dr. Meister's leadership and work as Founding Principal of The Bronx High School of Science from 1938 to 1958 established that secondary school in our community as a model for the nation, bringing us national acclaim; and

WHEREAS Dr. Meister, as Founding President of The Bronx Community College, has led that institution in its dynamic growth, now well known for innovation, forever growing opportunities, for students, and for unique service to the community; and

WHEREAS Dr. Meister is a beloved citizen of our city, a proud product of its public schools, and a graduate of the City College of New York;

Now, Therefore, I, Joseph F. Periconi, President of the Borough of The Bronx, do hereby proclaim October 20, 1965, to be

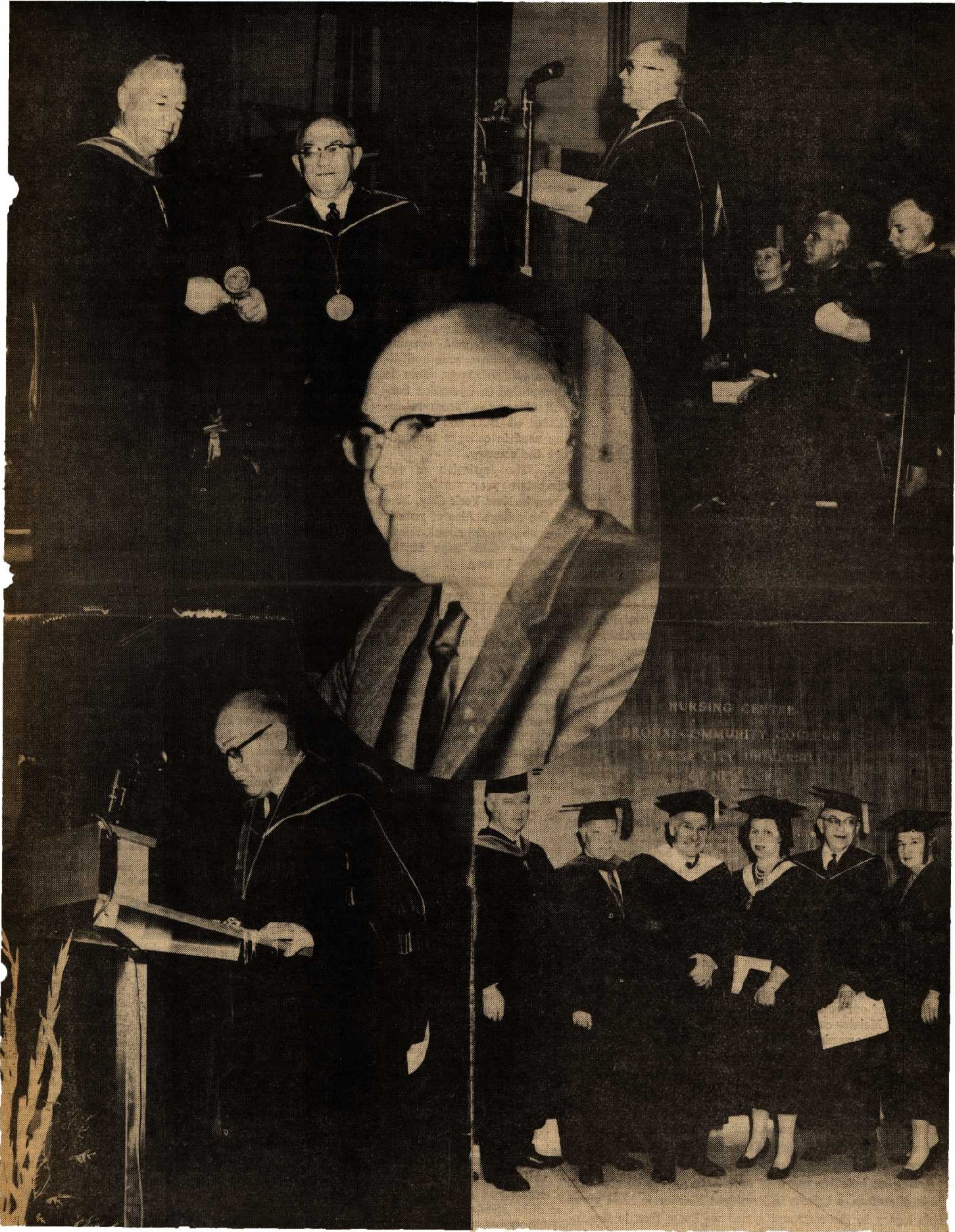
## EDUCATION FOR EXCELLENCE DAY

IN HONOR OF Dr. Morris Meister and his contributions to our community, which have improved educational opportunities in the Borough of The Bronx and the City of New York.











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Bronx Community College  
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## Seventy Years

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Among his major accomplishments as president have been:

1. The orderly growth of the College from one hundred and twenty students, to seven thousand, in the space of six years.

2. The accomplishment of this in a fifty year old building, being renovated while simultaneously holding classes. Quality education was maintained throughout the stages of growth.

3. The gathering of a fine and talented faculty and upholding faculty morale at all times.

4. The creation of a quality and yet friendly institution, with concern for each and every student, and opening the College to a wide and diverse student body. This is exemplified in Operation Second Chance; a program initiated at BCC and now being used in colleges throughout the country.

5. The initiation of the first two year nursing program in New York City, here at the college. Also of note is the use of closed circuit television and video tape at the Nursing Center.

6. The accreditation so early in the college's history, as well as the comments of praise by the accreditation panel. In addition, Bronx Community College is the only community college in New York City accredited by the Engineering Council Professional Development.

7. The effective and efficient Student Personnel Department for a well developed advisement program.

8. The coordination with the City Colleges, permitting

our transfer students to receive full credit for all courses from BCC.

9. The constant addition of new curriculum to the College's already long list.

10. The new Bronx Community College Air Space Campus.

Among the honors which have been received by our president are: President of the National Science Teacher's Association from 1946-1948; Chairman of the Cooperative Committee on the Teaching of Science of Mathematics of the American Association for the Advancement of Science from 1948-1954; President of the Emile Society (1952-1953); Bronx Chamber of Commerce Award (1953); President of Phi Beta Kappa, Gamma Chapter (1951-1951); President of High School Principal's Association (1954-1955); Outstanding Citizen of the Bronx Award from the Lion's Club (1957); President of the Metropolitan Association for the Study of the Gifted (1955-1956); Outstanding Citizenship Award from B'nai B'rith, Parkchester Lodge and Chapter (1960); First Science Teacher of the Year Award from General Science Teachers' Association of New York (1961); President of the New York Academy of Public Education (1961-1962); Chairman of the Subcommittee on Quality Integration in Public Schools; Member of the New Council of Advisors of National Scholarship Service and Fund for Negro Students; Honorary Member Beta Delta Chapter of Tau Alpha Pi, National Honor Society in Engineering Science. He still holds the following positions: Chairman of Committee on Examinations, CEEB (since 1956); Vice-President and

Trustee of Grand Street Boy's Foundation (since 1960); Secretary-Treasurer of the Laboratory for Educational Materials (since 1961).

Dr. Meister has authored more than fifteen publications, most notable of which is **Living in a World of Science** which appeared in nine volumes over a span of years from 1933-1957, and served as an introduction to the scientific world for more than a generation of young people. Others include: **Looking Ahead in Education** (1944) Smithsonian Scientific Series (1935); Editor of **The Science Classroom** (1928-1952).

He has also written many articles in science periodicals among which are "The Science Teacher, School and Society," **Richard's Encyclopedia**, (1945); "Operation Second Chance in Junior College Journal," (October 1962); Phi Delta Kappa; "Experiments in Expanding Opportunity for the Disadvantaged," (March 1965).

What does Pres. Meister have to say about this long and illustrious career? "It has been a soul satisfying kind of job."

## Luncheon...

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Also, during the week Dr. Meister was honored "for particularly outstanding service to secondary education in the U.S." by Williston Academy at Easthampton, Massachusetts, as one of the nation's 25 outstanding educators. The awards were presented on October 17, 1965, on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the founding of the academy and as part of the Fourth National Education Conference, devoted this year to problems confronting students making the transition to higher education.

## Speech...

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College would be demonstrating for free tuition.

There is a difference between the rebel and the revolutionary. The rebel is interested only in change, without reason and the revolutionary knows where he is going and why. Every rebel knows some day he will be rebelled against.

Today we have the problems of Vietnam and the burning of the draft cards. I was drafted in World War I, and lost many friends at Belleau Woods. My son was also drafted in World War II, when many, many brilliant lads were lost in the Battle of the Bulge. In World War I we found the Kaiser, in World II it was Hitler, Mussolini, and Tojo, and Korea, it was Stalin, Krushchev and Tojo.

Today it is Vietnam, although different, it is the same aggressive dictatorship philosophy, this time under the rule of Mao Tse Tung a Chinese Communist.

As a conclusion, instead of saying where are you taking my world, or where am I taking your world, it should be where are both of us, young and old, taking our world.

## The Seventieth Year

When Dr. Meister assumed the role of president of Bronx Community College in February of 1958, he inherited an old building and an idea coupled with ardent anticipation for the future. It was at that time his task to coordinate the program and activities which had been conceived nearly a decade before and to envision in totality all that was and would be necessary to any college. It was an experience in education, an untested theory, that of the position and usefulness of a community college in becoming a genuine contributing factor to the society. Our college was conceived partially out of the increased need for semi-professional skills and partially out of the need to provide many students with a second chance for receiving an education. The individual chosen for this position had to be well-versed in the art of educating and administering and at the same time have about him that certain aura of youthful endeavor that would allow new ideas to materialize and introduce new realities into the concept of education. To impart knowledge to the students while at the same time setting the standard of responsible citizenry as the eternal guide for success in our human world was of paramount concern so that Bronx Community College would evoke an unforgettable memory in the students who were privileged to spend that certain blessed interval in their lives at college. Since the beginning, many have reaped the numerous rewards afforded by BCC, and in the future many more will do so. The institution has come a long way. The plans for expansion have been accepted and will take form in the air-space-campus. But the man best suited to appreciate this would be the President himself, who yearned to see the classrooms and the corridors filled with students going through their daily activities in the search for truth and wisdom and each contributing in his own way to the heartbeat and true spirit of understanding which have been the hallmark of our college. In the wake of his seventieth year, President Meister can look back on a life in which he has received many awards and honors for his persevering service to education. But perhaps the greatest reward is realized when he looks upon the students of BCC either collectively or singularly and sees that certain character which distinguishes the educated from the ignorant. This may seem too subtle and quiescent to some, but, nevertheless, here exists reward in its purest form with no pomp or circumstance to detract, with only the glowing ember of satisfaction for imprinting an indelible mark of excellence on the community. It is, therefore, a tribute to President Meister to have given this legacy to the community, and we know that in the future the tone which he set will be followed by many. On behalf of all of the members of the faculty and the student body, we should like to wish President Meister a belated Happy Birthday and many more happy returns.

## Many Echo His Greatness

"In many respects Morris did more than anyone else—not only for the young people of the city but for the very system itself—in terms of the standards he set and the reputation he achieved as the result of his effective development of a school which became a model for the nation to copy."

"In building a new community college in the Bronx, Morris showed the same kind of vigor, ingenuity, and foresightedness that built the Bronx High School of Science."

**J. J. THEOBALD**  
U.S. Industries Incorporated  
Educational Science Division  
Former Superintendent of Schools

"Long before our country, frightened by Russian space achievements, went on a 'Science and math binge, this school (Science), guided by an outstanding educational leader, was showing the way. It certainly will remain a monument to Morris Meister's wisdom and leadership

in education for generations to come."

**ALEX BREINAN**  
Principal of Bronx  
High School of Science

"I have come to admire his ceaseless devotion to the furtherance of higher education and his deep concern for the provisions of opportunities for self-improvement to as wide a circle of young people as the city university can encompass within its scope."

**ALBERT BOWKER**  
Chancellor of the City  
University of New York

"I am flattered, indeed, to be asked and certainly would not miss the opportunity to add my words of appreciation for the fine leadership as well as the fellowship I have with Dr. Meister."

**BENJAMIN F. McLAURIN**  
Member of the BCC committee  
of the Board of Higher  
Education of New York City